

Minutes of the 71st MCG AGM – 5th April 2025 @ 10.00am

Virtual and Cottage meeting

Members present and apologies:

Present at the cottage: Tim Francis, Bill Chadwick, Brian Snell, Greg Hawkins, Dan Matthews, Mark Edwards, Fiona Kempston, Roy Kempston, Russ Porter, John Crowsley, Bryan Pittman, Matty Dredge, Bex Reeves, Keith Knight, Mike Moxon, Joan Goddard, Callum Bisley, Dave Cook, Hannah Blunt, Justin Abrahams, Steve Church, Kat Bielecka, Jason Kirby, Martin Cross, Ben Copper

(22 voting members. those not entitled to vote: Fiona Kempston, Bryan Pittman, Bex Reeves.)

Signed record of those present – see APPENDIX 1

Present virtually on MS Teams: - Denise Knibbs, Tom Harrison, Kay Matthew, Hayley Clarke (4 voting members)

26 voting members

Apologies for absence received from: Charlie Alison, Ed Ford, Kat Rosier, Mike Ormand, Steve Porter, Richard Carey, Andrea Carey.

Just prior to the meeting beginning Kat Bielecka and Justin Abrahams were voted in as full members by the present trustees.

The AGM meeting began at 10.00am.

Minutes for the AGM of MCG as Charity 270088

1. Welcome, appointment of Chair – Tim Francis

2. Record of those present, indicating physical or virtual presence, as well as those sending their apologies – as above.

3. Proposal: “That any routine business be conducted at the ‘2025 MCG AGM as CIO 1197325’.”

For – 21

Against – 0

Abstentions- 5

4. Proposal: “That the trustees with the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian/Recorder, Caving Secretary, Social Secretary, Editor, Cottage Warden and Tackle Master that are elected as trustees of the CIO at the CIO AGM *also* be elected as committee members of the MCG as charity 270088.”

A list of those standing as trustees of the CIO will be found in the CIO AGM agenda.

For – 21

Against – 0

Abstentions- 5

Minutes for the AGM of MCG as Charity 270088 end.

Minutes for the 2025 AGM of MCG as CIO 1197325

1. Welcome, appointment of Chair – Tim Francis

2. Record of those present, indicating physical or virtual presence, as well as those sending their apologies. see APPENDIX 1 and the list at the start of these minutes.

3. Tom Harrison was asked about the progress of the transfer of bank accounts with respect to the new CIO and he explained that there had been some issues, but it was almost complete. It was hoped that the original charity 270088 would be closed within the coming year and the MCG would fully function solely as the charity CIO 1197325 after that.

4. The 2024 AGM minutes were reviewed (covering both charities) and any actions therein.

Item numbers here are from the 2024 AGM minutes.

6.1 **ACTION** Tom Harrison to find a way to re-assess the totals for Building rebuild costs and Contents value. Still **ONGOING**

6.2 Action completed

8.2 Action completed

9.3 Action completed

9.4 Action completed

5. Proposal: that the Minutes of the 2024 AGM for both charities are a correct record.

For – 24

Against – 0

Abstentions- 2

6. Presentation of 2024/2025 officer's and trustee reports

Full reports can be found here: [Mendip Caving Group - Meeting Minutes](#)

Additional comments to those in the reports:

Secretary

Bill Chadwick gave a brief overview of the year. He said that 70th anniversary dinner had been a huge success, and he was pleased that everyone got the meal choices they had ordered. He stated the Steve Porter had completed the Land Registry transfer for the new charity, so this just left the completion of the bank account transfers.

He mentioned that Ed Ford had taken over as a stand in for Tackle Master after the previous member had resigned from the post due to unnecessary criticism from other members. Bill said the committee posts are voluntary, and the membership should treat committee members with respect.

Bill mentioned Kay Matthews' excellent newsletters and encouraged members to send reports to Kay.

Finally, he stated that he was awaiting the account examiners Linda Milne and Steve Porter to sign off the accounts.

Treasurer

Tom said that the accounts were healthy and there was a surplus of £1352 for 2024.

Bed nights were up for both members and guests. He said that the subs were stable. Commenting of the success of the 70th anniversary dinner he said that the group had made a £709 profit. He sent a big thank you to two members had made generous donations towards the cost of pre-evening drinks at the dinner. Costs overall were down, and he recommended that both the subs and hut fees remain the same for now.

Caving Secretary

Mark Edwards said that it had been a good year with several away trips and a number of new members. He thanked John Crowsley for his help with technical training.

Cottage Warden

Jason said that a lot had been achieved as mentioned in his report. He restated that if anyone sees a problem, they should let him know. He mentioned that a lot of pallets had been delivered for firewood. If anyone had spare time, they needed to be chopped up. Jason stated that he felt that the club should consider buying kiln dried wood. Considering the costs of the gas consumption for heating being high, he encouraged the use of the log burner as much as possible.

John Crowsley mentioned that perhaps it would be good if members made a small donation if they felt the need to push the heater button when there was only a small number of people at the cottage.

Bill stated that the membership should be aware that the gas usage was up by 30% (consistent with increased bed nights).

Tackle Master

Bill said that Ed had done a lot of work in the Tackle Store. Ropes had been labelled, and he had created a new register for tackle usage. Keys for S Wales caves would be labelled up and kept in the Tackle Store.

Librarian/Recorder

Joan Goddard said that as she was in the process of a house move, she could no longer spare time to help manage the library. Bill stated that we have a new librarian taking over.

Social Secretary

Dan Matthews said that the Halloween and Xmas events had been a success despite the loss of power on the Xmas dinner evening. It was with thanks to Mary Cox and the use of her Aga to cook the main meal that the evening was recovered. He also thanked Kat Rosier for her help on the evening.

Editor

Kay thanked everyone for their contributions and the help she received with setting up the newsletter. She asked for any articles for the June newsletter be sent in to her. Callum said that he would supply his latest trip report.

Investments funds

Ben apologised for not having a report completed, he has been through a difficult period in his personal life. He hoped to have the report finished soon.

7. Election of trustees for 2024-2025

Tim went through the list of trustees and mentioned that it was necessary for some trustees to resign after a period of three years those can then be re-proposed and elected to continue their roles.

He suggested that the floor vote en-block for the existing trustees to continue.

For – 24
Against – 0
Abstentions – 2

There was then a vote en-block for those trustees wishing to be re-elected.

For – 24
Against – 0
Abstentions – 2

8. Election of non-committee posts for 2025-2026

8.a Conservation officer. Tom had covered the post of Conservation officer and CSCC representative. He was happy to continue with any conservation work but asked if anyone would like to take over the role as CSCC rep. Matty agreed to take on the role as he was already in contact with some of the CSCC board. Proposed - Hanah Blunt, Seconded – Jason Kirby.

For – 24
Against - 0
Abstentions - 2

8.b Rescue Warden Bill stated that in the current time this post was no longer active due to Mendip Rescue Organisation's preferences, who already organise practise rescues.

9. Election of Account Examiners for 2025-2026

Steve Porter had said he was happy to continue.
Acceptance from Linda Milne was awaited. A vote was held in the presumption the Linda would continue.

For – 24
Against – 0
Abstentions – 2

10. Matters for discussion and a vote

Agenda Item 1. Consider and vote on proposed constitution update that enables full cottage bookings by youth groups requiring safeguarding, that preclude simultaneous access to the cottage by members. For approval, this constitution change needs a 4/5ths majority vote by the full members present at a general meeting.

Bill explained that the issue of full cottage bookings had been discussed during the 2024 AGM (Item 8.2 of the 2024 AGM minutes). Following this, it was clear that a potential change to the constitution wording was needed. Bill said that the constitution states that members should have access to the cottage at all times. But the problem was when a full cottage booking was required. The proposed constitution changes were for full and exclusive bookings being available to youth groups like the scouts. Consequently, there would be no access to members. Therefore, the constitution and the Rules needed to be changed to reflect this. The wording of the constitution was discussed with the changes required in red.

Agenda Item 2. If the constitution changes in Item 1. are approved, consider and vote on, the proposed CIO rules detailing its implementation.

The rules were then looked at and Bill stated that full cottage bookings would only be available for 3 times in a year for a maximum of 7 nights. This would be spread throughout the year and would not be accepted on public holidays and members' weekends. Mid-week bookings would be accepted. The rules stated that there would be no access for members between 8pm and 8am.

John Crowsley said that he didn't want to turn up unexpectedly with a group of wet cavers and not be able to have access. Bill said that if he had booked the cottage on the website this would not happen.

Tom explained that he planned for beds to be available for booking via the website. As long as a booking had been made, a group wishing to book the cottage could check the calendar for availability.

Dan Matthews stated that an exclusive booking for 7 days by a youth group would be rare. Bill admitted that there had only been only one full cottage booking in the past 3 years.

Ben Cooper said that clear wording was required to avoid ambiguity. It was generally agreed that the rules should state that there would be no access to the hut between 8pm and 8am.

The constitution was re-visited to discuss the requested changes to the wording to state no access during the booked period.

Tim Francis said that we need to reflect both internal access to the hut and external.

Roy Kempston said that the booked group should be made aware of the appropriate section of the constitution and rules.

Ben suggested that going down this route was inviting big problems and that the rules cannot affect the constitution.

Tim Francis proposed that the wording "from time to time" and "overnight" be removed.

For – 18

Against – 4

Abstentions – 4

Changes to section (c). Tim proposed we vote on the amendments to section (c)

Proposed Ben Cooper. Seconded Martin Cross

For – 19

Against – 2

Abstentions – 5

Tim then proposed a vote on the full changes required – see Appendix 2 to these minutes for the final changes.

Proposed Ben Cooper. Seconded Martin Cross

For – 19

Against – 2

Abstentions – 5

Ben asked what the floor felt about this as it was a big change. Some opinions were then floored.

Martin Cross said that we started this debate based on an unusual situation which would possibly restrict access to members.

Matty Dredge suggested that a key for the old shed and drying room could be kept in the Tackle Store. This was unanimously agreed (*post meeting note from secretary, a key for the drying room needs to also be kept in the cottage for guests and probationary members*).

Tim proposed that the Trustees review the Rules and re-present the changes.

Bill said that the constitution states the trustees can make rule changes without a vote at a general meeting of members.

Matty proposed that the trustees make the necessary changes to the rules and re-present them by the end of June. Dave Cook seconded this motion.

For – 20
Against – 1
Abstentions – 5

Agenda Item 3. Consider if we should restrict, in the constitution, the number of officer roles that may be delegated by the trustees.

Bill said that the situation had changed so there was no longer a need to discuss this point.

11. Any Other Business

11.a Award of the Knibbs trophy for 2025 – Kay Matthews for her newsletter production.

11.b Award of the JRat Digging trophy for 2025 – Ed Ford for various digging activities.

11.c Matty suggested that in addition to the frosted glass in the toilets and rear shower room, perhaps blinds be considered for privacy, as the translucent glass didn't fully block the view through the glass. There were murmurs of agreement.

12. Date of the next AGM: Saturday 18th April 2026, at Nordrach and on-line for 10.00am start. Note that Easter is the 2026 April member's weekend 4th/5th April.

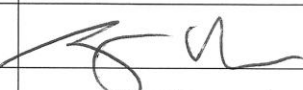




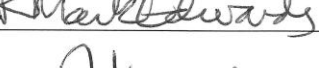
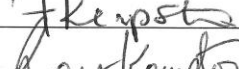
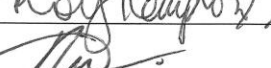

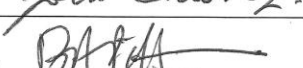

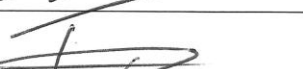
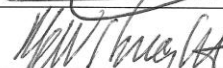

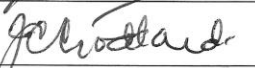







For – 18
Against – 0
Abstentions – 8

The meeting finished at 12.30

Minutes taken and written by Brian Snell (Custodian Trustee), updated by Bill Chadwick (secretary).




Mendip Caving Group 2025 AGM

Attendance Sheet for those present at Nordrach

Name	Signature	Full Member?
Tim Francis		Full
Bill Gredwisk		Full
Brian Snell		Full
Greg Hawkins		Full
Daniel Matthews		Full
R Mark Edwards		Full
Fiona Kempston		Associate
Roy Kempston		Full
Russ Porter		Full
John Croasner		Full
BRYAN P. TIMMAN		Associate
Matty Dredge		FULL
Bex Reeves		PROBATIONARY
KEITH KNIGHT		FULL.
MIKE MORON		Full
JOHN GARDNER		Full
Callum Bly		Full
Rumplestean		Full
DAN COOK		Full
Hannah Blunt		Full
Justyn Abrahams		Full
Steve Church		Full

Mendip Caving Group 2025 AGM

Attendance Sheet for those present at Nordrach

Name	Signature	Full Member?
Kat Bielecka		Yeah boy :)
Jay lobby		Full.
MARTIN CROSS		FULL
Ben Cooper		FULL 22

APPENDIX 2 – Final wording of constitution change

Constitution changes (in red) to Section 9 ‘Membership of the CIO’

(6) Benefits and Rights of membership

(a) All members benefit from:

- (i) receipt of club publications (electronic or printed);
- (ii) advice of meetings and activities;
- (iii) the loan of books from the CIO’s library;
- (iv) the right to call a general meeting as per sub-clause [11] (2) (b) (i).

(b) The individual classes of membership have the following extra benefits and rights:

(i) Junior Members:

- (i) use of the CIO’s caving equipment when accompanied by a Full member;
- (ii) access to the CIO’s library when accompanied by a Full member;
- (iii) Junior members have no voting rights;
- (iv) Junior members have no automatic right to become a Probationary member on reaching the age of 18;

(ii) Probationary Members:

- (i) access to and use of the CIO's premises but excluding access to its caving equipment store and library, **subject to the provision at sub-clause (c) of this clause;**
 - (ii) use of the CIO's caving equipment when accompanied by a Full member;
 - (iii) access to the CIOs library when accompanied by a Full member;
 - (iv) Probationary members have no voting rights;
- (iii) Full Members:
 - (i) access to and use of the CIO's premises, including access to its caving equipment store and library, **subject to the provision at sub-clause (c) of this clause;**
 - (ii) loans of the CIO's caving equipment;
 - (iii) the right to vote at general meetings;
 - (iv) the right to stand for election as a charity trustee;
- (iv) Affiliate Members:
 - (i) access to and use of the CIO's premises but excluding access to its caving equipment store and library, **subject to the provision at sub-clause (c) of this clause;**
 - (ii) access to the CIO's library when accompanied by a Full member;
 - (iii) Affiliate members have no extra benefits and in particular have no voting rights.
- (c) **The trustees may prohibit members access to and use of the CIO's premises, to enable the premises to be used by a youth organisation (see clause [30]) whose safeguarding rules would prohibit the presence of persons outside of their organisation.**

Constitution Addition (in red) to Section 30 'Interpretation'

A "youth organisation" is an organisation that works with children and young people, where the majority of the children are aged 11 to 18 years and are registered with their appropriate regulatory body.